

December 12, 2000

TO: Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices
Directors, NASA Centers
Director, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

FROM: AO/Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

Enclosed is clarification and guidance on adherence to COPPA (15 U.S.C. § 6501 et seq.), which was signed into law on October 21, 1998. The main goal of COPPA is to protect the privacy of children (i.e., less than 13 years of age) using the Internet. The statute applies to Web sites and online services that are directed to, or that knowingly collect information from, children under 13. Initially, the legislation itself was not applicable to Federal agencies. However, in July 2000, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memorandum directing Federal agencies to adhere to COPPA. Therefore, effective July 2000, Federal agencies, including NASA, were required to adhere to COPPA as if they were included in the scope of the legislation.

As stated in the enclosure, Center Chief Information Officers (CIO's) are responsible for ensuring Center compliance with COPPA. The enclosure also provides Agency Web site owners and Web site administrators, working with Center CIO's, with information on COPPA compliance requirements and additional clarification and guidance, so that NASA Centers will conform to COPPA in a uniform manner.

This memorandum and enclosure will be transmitted to Center CIO's via e-mail for ease of access to the Web site addresses it contains and for ease of redistribution.

Please address questions or comments on this topic to Bob Benedict at (202) 358-1475 or via e-mail at bob.benedict@hq.nasa.gov.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring compliance with COPPA.

(signed by David Nelson for)
Lee B. Holcomb

Enclosure

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